

# RAO Newsletter #2014-3 – October 21, 2014 - Gray Area Retirees Retired Pay Applications

As of October 1, 2014, the United States Army Human Resources Command has discontinued mailing retirement applications to Gray Area Retirees for their non-regular retirement at age 60. United States Army Reserve Command. The National Guard Bureau and the Army Retirement Services Office will assist coordination of this initiative and inform affected population.

This initiative will stop the process of mailing retirement applications to Gray Area Retirees 13 months prior to their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Gray Area Retirees will now be required to contact HRC to request retirement applications and confirm their current mailing address 13 months prior to their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday or expected retirement date by calling HRC at 888-276-9472 or by emailing [askhrc.army@us.army.mil](mailto:askhrc.army@us.army.mil). HRC will leverage current technologies to allow individuals to request applications online.

After receipt of the retirement application Wisconsin Army National Guard Gray Area Retirees should contact the office of The Adjutant General, Wisconsin, ATTN: WIAR-G1-SR at 608-242-3418 or 1-800-335-5147 ext 3418 .

HRC currently mails over 4,000 retirement applications quarterly with 7% returned to HRC due to incorrect addresses. This has caused delay in receiving retired pay or no retired pay at all for those Gray Area Retirees.

**For more information go to:**

<http://www.soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/sbp/html>

The Retiree Activities Office (RAO) has a similar problem. Each month the RAO screens approximately 26,000 military retirees that live in Wisconsin to determine those gray area retirees who will turn age 60 in the following month and sends them a letter. Invariably 10% of those letters are returned because of bad addresses. All military retirees should keep Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) advised as to their mailing address and any of the following life events (this list is not all-inclusive):

**Changes in sponsors Status:**

- Retiring or separating from active duty
- National Guard or Reserve member activation or deactivation
- Change in service status (e.g. enlistment to officer, branch change)
- Getting married or Divorced
- Having a baby or adopting a child (NOTE: DEERS registry is a separate step and is a requirement before you can enroll a child in Tricare.)
- Moving to a new location for any reason
- Becoming entitled to Medicare either you or a family member)
- Death of sponsor or family member

You can call **1-800-538-9552** to update your address, email address and phone number. Other changes require a new military ID Card.